
From: Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Newell, Russell
Subject: FULL TEXT David Bernhardt speech to NMA
Attachments: 1004 NMA DB Speech.docx

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Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

Good morning. As Kevin said, my name is David Bernhardt.

I have the real honor to serve in the Trump Administration as Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior and as Secretary Zinke's right hand.

Secretary Zinke appreciated your invitation to visit with you, but he is traveling, and as a result I was suggested as a surrogate to visit with you today. I really wish he was here because you would have seen a fantastic leader, who is a great Secretary.

For someone, like me, who grew up outside of the small town of Rifle, Colorado, it's really something to be addressing the National Mining Association.

You see mining, and in particular mining on federal lands, was a vitally important economic component in my community growing up. In fact, the hardhat my

grandfather used for a short foray after World War II as a miner sits on a shelf in my den.

Before we discuss this administration's Department of the Interior's agenda under President Trump, I'd like to start off by telling you a bit about me and about my friend Jesse Mead.

I met Jesse in fourth grade. He and I were on the same pee wee football team. When I was 12, on April 15, 1981 Jesse's life changed forever.

Jesse's dad was a miner for Mid Continent Resources, at the Dutch Creek Mine just south of Redstone, Colorado. He worked the swing shift. Some of you may have heard of the Dutch Creek mine.

At 4:08 P.M. on April 15th, a methane coal dust explosion blasted through the mine, killing 15 miners.

One of those killed was Jesse's dad, Loren Mead. In the papers, his name was sandwiched in a list with 14 other miners: **Loren Mead, 35 years old**. That was it. But, my parents told me that he was Jesse's dad.

Jesse and I went from playing pee wee football together to being the two underclassmen that made the varsity team together.

As underclassmen, we tended to hover together. I remember leaving his side and breaking out of the team line after a game ended to quickly high five my dad before heading to the locker room. I will never forget my own personal guilt and remorse when I caught back up with Jesse as we headed to the locker room knowing that he could not have the same moment. I never left his side the rest of the year.

The truth is the Dutch Creek mine wasn't the biggest accident in our community's history. In the really small

town of New Castle, Colorado, where I went to elementary school, we celebrated burning mountain days each year, because to this day, smoke from a burning coal seam rises from the side of the mountain just outside of town. That smoke is still from the Vulcan Mine disaster that exploded in 1913 killing 37 miners. That same mine had an explosion in 1896 that killed 49 miners.

According to the NMA's web page there were 1688 mining fatalities in 1931, and 26 in 2016.

Why do I tell you this story as we visit in such a nice venue? The Department of the Interior is not MSHA?

I tell you this because I think it is important for you to understand that Secretary Zinke and I take our responsibility to regulate extremely seriously. We appreciate that having a regulatory framework is an important component to environmental stewardship.

However, we also know how important your success and viability is to:

- strengthening the U.S. economy – particularly in rural America:
- Enhancing our National Security by expanding our energy dominance and ensuring we have the critical minerals on which our society depends;

As a teenager, I also quickly realized how completely devastated a community could be as major employers left our rural community. Mid-Content Resources shut down. Exxon had a syn-fuels program to retort oil shale and left as well.

I recognize that mining jobs are great jobs. They're long-term, they're good paying, and they've been the bedrock of countless American communities for so many years.

When we take these jobs away, we undermine the economic security of whole communities. That is something markets may do, but government should not.

Getting rid of federal coal leasing with the stroke of a pen might make a neat headline, but it doesn't just have the potential to destroy the economy of a community surrounded by federal lands, it also has the potential to break up the social cohesion of the town and take away hope.

Many in our political class, have never worked with their hands for a day in their lives. I often think they should work a shift or two and see whether they can keep up.

I believe that President Trump was elected partially on the expectation that he would do all that he could to

bring back the jobs and the wealth that our government has ripped away from the rural towns across America.

We are striving to facilitate that by making the regulatory environment fairer, more transparent, and predictable. We are trying to get out of your way.

But we will not do so at the expense of lowering our environmental and safety standards.

We can uphold strict standards while still leveling the playing field.

We want our regulatory predictability to increase and our permitting timelines to fall. We want U.S. production numbers to go up, and we want your fatality numbers to keep going down.

With Secretary Ryan Zinke at the helm, our Department administers 1/5 of the lands of the United States.

We are conducting a top-to-bottom review of how our government can be a better business partner.

One of Secretary Zinke's first actions when he took office was to reverse the ban on coal leasing.

- Since we lifted the moratorium, the Bureau of Land Management has received three new lease applications for over an additional 2,000 acres and 15.3 million tons of coal all together.
- The Bureau also issued a lease over more than 6,000 acres of land in the West, containing approximately 56.6 million tons of recoverable coal.

We are putting a greater focus on critical minerals. In fact, we met with several of you on that issue a few weeks ago.

You know that the elimination of the Stream Protection Rule was a very positive step that Congress and the President stepped up and addressed, which was a big deal for us.

We're looking to remove the unnecessary, redundant regulations that add no value. When weighed in terms of net present value, by the end of 2017, we will have reduced our regulatory burden by \$3.8 billion from Interior rules, according to our experts, based on a \$261 million annual number.

We are also prioritizing the completion of environmental analyses, new planning efforts, Resource Management Plan revisions, and

amendments to enhance access to lands available for energy and minerals development.

We are currently evaluating existing and proposed withdrawals, and we are considering appropriate adjustments that make sense.

- In some of these proposed withdrawals, the prior administration's proposed actions can be described as nothing short of uninformed, arbitrary, and frankly senseless. They might have made great press, but to do so they had to ignore the facts of their own experts in the record.
- One of the most blatant examples of such absurdity will be highlighted in the next couple of days. So stay tuned.

We are looking at ways to streamline leasing and permitting for hardrock mining while addressing

backlog of mining notices, exploration plans, and mine plans by:

- Ensuring adequate resources are available to address notice-level and plan-level work for exploration and mining and to efficiently process new applications for hardrock mining.
- Enhancing coordination with states, tribes, and other agencies to streamline the review and approval of NEPA documents related to hardrock mining.

We are also making efforts to decrease the time it takes to complete priority Resource Management Plan revisions by using third-party contractors when appropriate, and coordinating with the Washington Office early and often on key management decisions.

Finally, we are conducting a thorough review of existing court decisions and making the necessary changes in current planning documents to limit re-litigation of similar issues.

Simply put, we are optimistic that the American mining sector will help deliver American energy dominance and economic growth.

We know that you can invest anywhere in the world.

We are going to be relentless in trying to minimize regulatory and permitting uncertainty. However, we will do so while maintaining our environmental and safety standards. Very few days go by in my office when I do not think of the guys I grew up with like Jesse Mead.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

From: Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Dylan Brown
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Bernhardt speech to NMA

Dylan - sorry I missed your deadline. If you are still interested, let me get back to you on this.

Best,

Russell

Russell Newell
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-6232
[@Interior](#)

On Thu, Oct 5, 2017 at 2:18 PM, Dylan Brown <dbrown@eenews.net> wrote:

Hello,

Wanted to follow-up on a request that I sent to Heather as I'm sure she's as swamped as ever. I'm looking to track down to get a copy of David Bernhardt's comments to the National Mining Association yesterday or snag a statement that gives me a sense of what he discussed at the meeting. If nothing else, I'd appreciate confirmation that he spoke at the event.

My deadline is 3 p.m. EST

Best,

Dylan Brown

E&E News mining reporter

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Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: Dylan Brown <dbrown@eenews.net>
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To: Newell, Russell
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It's all right, you weren't the only one. Shoot me whatever you track down! And thanks for the time on this.

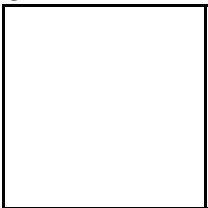
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From: Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:38 PM
To: Dylan Brown
Subject: Re: Bernhardt speech to NMA

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Bernhardt, David <(b) (6) Bernhardt>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 2:50 PM
To: Nachmany, Eli
Subject: Re: Electronic copy of NMA speech
Attachments: 1004 NMA DB Speech (1).docx

On Thu, Oct 5, 2017 at 2:38 PM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Sir,

It was great to meet with you just now! I was hoping to get the final electronic version of the speech from the National Mining Association.

In addition, I'm CCing Russ Newell on this, as a reporter had asked for the speech as well and we were wondering if you would be comfortable with a reporter having the speech. I know you shared a personal story in there, but it is rock solid on the policy.

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Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

--

David Longly Bernhardt
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